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City Document.—No. 12.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
City of Roxbury,
FOR THE
YEAR 1858.



ROXBURY:
L. B. & O. E. WESTON, PRINTERS, GUILD ROW.
1858.

City of Roxbury.

IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, May, 1858.

The Chairman appointed the following members as the Annual Examining Committees, viz.:

High and Grammar Schools.—Messrs. RAY, SHAILER, CUMMINGS, NUTE, BREWER and WILLIAMS.

Primary and Intermediate Schools.—Messrs. OLMSTEAD, PUTNAM, SEAVER, ALLEN and ANDERSON.

These Committees, through their Chairmen, submitted their Reports at the Quarterly Meeting in June, which were accepted.

November, 1858.

The Chairman appointed the same Committees to make the Quarterly Examination.

At a subsequent meeting, Reports of said Examination were submitted and accepted.

The CHAIRMAN, and Messrs. RAY and OLMSTEAD were appointed a Committee to prepare the Annual Report for publication.

December 15, 1858.

The Reports of the CHAIRMAN, and Messrs. RAY and OLMSTEAD were submitted and accepted. It was then

Ordered, That 2500 copies of the same be printed, under the direction of said Committee, and distributed to the citizens of this City, as the Annual Report of the School Committee.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Secretary*.

REPORT.

THE School Committee, to whom the citizens of Roxbury intrusted the "care and superintendence of the public schools," for the year 1858, respectfully submit the following Report:

The condition of our Public Schools is a subject which commends itself to, and awakens a lively interest in, the mind of every citizen interested in the improvement of the rising generation. The Committee, in the performance of their duties, have repeatedly visited every School under their charge; and examined the same each quarter. The results of these several examinations are embodied in the accompanying reports. They have endeavored to improve the existing system of instruction, without introducing any radical changes; and, so far as they were able, to render our Schools more efficient and profitable. They have the satisfaction of assuring the citizens, that the Schools generally are in a healthful and prosperous condition — and will compare favorably, both as to progress and attainments, with those of the same grade in other places.

Much must necessarily remain for our successors to accomplish; and a constant supervision will be requisite, to maintain the Schools in their present efficiency, and adapt them to the wants of the community.

The whole number of Public Schools, under the care of this Board, is *Forty*; which are graded as Primary and Intermediate, Grammar, and High.

The whole number of Teachers employed is *Seventy*; including a teacher of music for the Grammar Schools, and one, in drawing, for the High School.

The whole number of Pupils belonging to all the Schools, is *Three thousand two hundred and forty-seven*.

The cost of maintaining our Public Schools the current year, is, exclusive of the erection and repair of buildings, \$29,559.13, or \$9.10 per Scholar.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS. — The number of Primary Schools is *Thirty-three*, which are under the charge of *Thirty-three* Teachers.

The number of Pupils belonging to these Schools, is *One thousand seven hundred and fifty-three*, making an average to each School of *Fifty-three* Pupils.

The cost of keeping the Primary Schools, the present year, is \$11,282.61, or \$6.43 per Scholar.

The Primary Schools are located in different parts of the City — so as best to accommodate the younger children belonging to them. In some sections of the City, four schools occupy the same building, and are classified into three grades; in other sections, only one or two schools are kept in each house. Where there are two, they are arranged in two grades. Each School is composed of both boys and girls. Pupils are received into these Schools when five years of age, and remain members

until prepared for admission to the Grammar Schools, the length of time being about three years. They are here taught the first rudiments of education: only a limited knowledge of Reading, Spelling, and Arithmetic is acquired. Yet here the child forms habits of study, attention, and order, which he will carry with him through his whole pupilage, and which will tend either to facilitate or retard his future progress in study. Here, too, the development and improvement of his moral and physical nature demands attention. That teacher is most successful, who, possessing a real sympathy for children, makes the school exercises attractive, as well as profitable; who adapts her instruction to the capacities of her pupils, and, by familiar illustrations and explanations, makes every subject easily understood. It is by the use of such means that young children become interested, and are taught to think for themselves, and bring into use the various faculties of their minds.

During the year, the City Authorities have erected a fine building in Ward 3, to afford additional accommodation for Primary School children residing in that part of the City. The structure is two stories in height, and contains four large rooms, and connected with each is a convenient dressing room. The school yard affords ample play ground for the pupils; and altogether, the building is as neat and convenient a Primary School House as any in the City. The building, soon after it was placed in the hands of the School Committee, was occupied by the two schools formerly kept in Orange Street, by the one lately in a hired room on Washington Street, and by the school newly organized.

All the Primary School Houses in the City are, with one or two exceptions, in good condition, commodious and well adapted to school purposes.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL. — This School is situated on Vernon Street, Ward 2, numbering *Eighty-eight* Pupils, who are arranged in two divisions, and are under the charge of two Teachers.

The cost of maintaining this School, for the year, is \$856.64, or \$9.73 per Scholar.

The rank of the Intermediate is the same as that of the Primary Schools. It is composed of boys over eight years of age, who are not qualified for admission to the Grammar Schools, many of whom never enjoyed the benefits of any previous instruction. The Pupils are promoted to the Grammar Schools, as soon as they are sufficiently advanced in their studies.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS. — There are five Grammar Schools in the City. The Pupils belonging to each of these, are arranged in the following number of Divisions: nine in the Washington, six in the Dearborn (both for boys); — seven in the Dudley, five in the Comins (both for girls); — and one in the Francis Street (mixed). Each Division, averaging *Forty-eight* Pupils, is under the charge of a single Teacher; with the addition of an Assistant to the Principal in the First Division of the Washington, Dearborn and Dudley Schools — making the number of permanent Teachers *Thirty-one*.

The whole number of Pupils belonging to the Grammar Schools, is *One thousand three hundred and thirty-seven*.

The cost of maintaining these Schools, the current year, is \$15,160.92, or \$10.60 per Scholar.

Pupils are admitted to the Grammar Schools, from the Primary and Intermediate, semi-annually. Those who complete the regular course of study, remain members four or five years; during which time, every facility and encouragement are afforded them to obtain an education, in all the branches of study necessary to qualify them for the

High School, or to enable them intelligently to act their part in the ordinary pursuits of life.

It is to be regretted, that so many pupils leave school before completing the regular course of study; and that some fail to derive so much advantage, as they otherwise might, by want of thoroughness in the more elementary studies, or by frequent absence. Pupils are sometimes promoted to a higher division, with the other members of the class, before they, from want of capacity or other causes, thoroughly understand the ground gone over; but as these promotions are generally made to make room for the next lower class or division already full, they cannot always be avoided. A pupil may, from various reasons, fail to secure an education equal to others of the same class; but none can pass through the different classes of our Grammar Schools, without acquiring much useful knowledge, and receiving that training of the intellectual and moral faculties, which will be of inestimable advantage in after life.

The several Grammar School Houses are conveniently located. The want of accommodation for boys in the Western Section of the City, and for girls in the Eastern, has caused the overflow of the two Central Schools. It has been found necessary to form a Division of the Washington School in the Primary School House in Orange Street; but this can only afford temporary relief, besides being remote from the main building. Three Divisions of the Dudley School are kept in two different buildings, separate from the main house, one of which does not belong to the City, and is not adapted to school purposes. There will be a demand for the accommodation of another Division within a few months. And that all the pupils may be provided with suitable privileges and conveniences in attending school, further accommodation must soon be made for both boys and girls.

HIGH SCHOOL (FOR GIRLS). — This School numbers *Sixty-nine* Pupils, who are under the charge of two Teachers.

The cost of maintaining the High School, the present year, is \$2258.96, or \$32.74 per Scholar.

The High School for Girls is designed to give, to those who have completed the Grammar School studies, and are able to pass a satisfactory examination in the same, such an education in all the requisite branches of study, as will enable them to act efficiently as teachers in our schools, or to be, by its refining and elevating influence, the better prepared for the active duties of life.

THE LATIN AND THE ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, are free and open to all who possess the qualifications required by the Trustees. The former school is designed to prepare boys for College; the latter, to give them a thorough English education. The School Committee have no care or control over these Schools, and cannot report upon their condition.

TEACHERS. — The teachers employed in our schools are nearly the same as those of last year; some few changes have been made, caused by the resignation of those who were appointed to more lucrative situations in other places, and those who were about to assume other duties. Their places have been filled by new appointments. Two teachers have been added to the number, one for the new division of the Washington School, the other for the new Primary School in Ward 3.

In every instance of an appointment, the Committee, after a thorough examination of the literary qualifications, credentials, &c., of each applicant, have selected the one who afforded the best evidences of being qualified and adapted for the particular vacancy, and after placing her

on trial for several months, if she then gave satisfaction, the appointment was confirmed, but not otherwise.

It is a mistake to suppose that a teacher will succeed, because she possesses the requisite literary attainments; for beside these qualifications, she must understand how to impart instruction, and, when a subject is being studied or recited, be able to explain every difficulty, to the comprehension of her pupils; she must have sufficient knowledge of Physiology and Hygiene, to understand the injurious effects of inadequate ventilation, bad position, and want of exercise; she must know the best methods to subdue the obstinate, arouse the indolent, and encourage the dull, and to win the confidence and affection of all; she must be able to correct the bad habits and evil tendencies of her pupils, and set forth the attractions of morality and piety. If she does not possess these requisites, she is not qualified for the position to which she aspires.

It is a greater mistake, to suppose that teachers of inferior attainments will answer for Primary Schools, or that almost any one can teach small children. It is most important to commence aright in the process of education. Habits of study and order are soon formed, and when once formed, it is almost impossible to change them. The education a child receives in the Primary School, is the basis, largely, of all his after attainments, and shapes and directs his course in maturer years. Hence, only competent and thoroughly qualified teachers should have charge of the Primary Schools.

Most of our teachers are successful and efficient, devoted to their work, and especially valuable to their particular schools.

PARENTS.—It is a gratifying fact, that so few complaints have been made during the year, in reference to our schools. Whenever any distinct charge has been made, it has received the prompt attention of the Com-

mittee; if it was well founded, and sustained by facts, such action was taken as to prevent a repetition of the offence, and to remove all proper grounds of complaint. All teachers are required by this Board to maintain order, and secure obedience to the rules of the school, without the use of harsh or improper means. If a child is treated with undue severity, it should be made known to the Committee, whose duty it is to see that justice is done to the child, as well as to the teacher. The welfare of the schools would be promoted, if parents generally were more disposed to aid the teachers and Committee in the work of education; by conferring, in a spirit of confidence, with them, in any case of difficulty; by inculcating upon their children the duty of obedience to the rules of the school, and respect for the teachers, and by exhibiting more interest in the studies and exercises of the school room.

TRUANCY. — The City Ordinance in relation to truant children, and absentees from school, is of little avail in diminishing the number of idle, vicious boys, about our streets. The want of some suitable place, to which they could be committed after being arrested by the truant officers, is sensibly felt. Should the City Government provide a house of reformation for juvenile offenders, means would then be furnished to carry out the design of the Law. The existence of such a place, with a certainty of the execution of the Ordinance, would have a salutary influence, in deterring many from becoming truants, while those who should be subjected to the discipline of such a place, would be reclaimed, and instead of pursuing a course of vice and crime, would there form habits of industry and honesty.

COMMITTEE. — The care of the Public Schools has become more important, and more laborious, than it was formerly. The Committee have promptly met the increasing

demand upon their time, although the proper discharge of the duties imposed upon them, in this relation, has at times seriously interfered with their other engagements. The interest to be looked after has become so extended, that the expediency of enlarging the Committee, or employing a Superintendent of the Schools, demands attention.

During the greater part of the year, the Committee have been deprived of the experience and valuable services of one of their number; one who has so faithfully devoted his time and talents to the interests of the Public Schools of this City, for the last seven years. It is a satisfaction to know, that he has regained his health, the loss of which caused him to withdraw from the duties of Chairman.

HORATIO G. MORSE.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Examined May 21st.

SEVERAL of the Committee were present, and devoted the whole of the day to this school. Very marked success attended every exercise. Reading, Spelling and Defining were every way creditable.

In Algebra, Geometry and Natural Philosophy, the pupils showed a quickness of comprehension, and power of thought highly gratifying.

French and Latin Sentences selected by the Committee were read and translated with remarkable correctness and fluency. The presence of several ladies and gentlemen, who came in to witness the exercises, together with the enthusiastic and ready manner of the scholars, contributed to make the occasion one of unusual interest. When we remember that this school was organized less than four years ago, we feel justified in saying that it has met our highest expectations; and that it is preëminently entitled to occupy the honorable position we feel it has already attained in the estimation of the public, as well as among the High Schools of this Commonwealth. And we congratulate our citizens upon the possession of such efficient aid in the moral and intellectual training of their children as it presents. No amount of interest which they do, or may in future manifest in its behalf, no amount of judicious expenditure of money for its accommodation and support, will, we think, fail to give a full and satisfactory reward. The school is not large, and so long as only girls are admitted, and the supply comes chiefly from our present Grammar Schools for Girls, its number will not be, perhaps, very greatly increased.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The labor of examining these schools was sub-divided as follows: The exercises in Reading, Spelling, Defining and Declamation were conducted by Messrs. Ray and Brewer, — in Grammar, History, Writing, Compositions and Book Keeping by Messrs. Nute and Williams, — in Arithmetic and Geography by Messrs. Cummings and Shailer.

The number of Grammar Schools remains unchanged. The Washington and Dudley continue very much crowded, to the great inconvenience of teachers and pupils, and the Committee regret to report that a large number of boys have been denied admission to the Washington School who were fully qualified to enter, for want of room, and made to suffer great injustice at our hands, by being kept in the Primary Schools while they should be enjoying the advantages of promotion.

Foreseeing this difficulty and recognizing the moral and legal right of parents to require of the City through the Board of School Committee suitable accommodations for the education of their children, the Board of last year requested the City Council to furnish such accommodations as the obvious necessities of the case demanded, but were refused. At a meeting of the Board in the early part of the present year, the subject was again presented, and the immediate and pressing wants of these Schools, properly and respectfully urged. The very *unsafe* condition of the Washington School House, the probable cost of altering and enlarging it to meet the demand, the necessity for a substitution of more modern seats and desks for the present inconvenient and health-destroying ones which the scholars are compelled to occupy, together with such economical reasons as the whole subject suggested, were, it is believed, faithfully represented. But the Committee on

Public Property reported against making any appropriation for the purpose, and, therefore, the request of the Board of School Committee was again refused.

The subject is, however, by no means disposed of, and it is confidently expected that the desired alterations and improvements in the Washington School building, will be made during the coming season.

DEPARTMENT OF READING, SPELLING, DEFINING AND
DECLAMATION.

Eight days were devoted to the examination in these studies, and so nearly alike did all the Divisions appear, age and grade considered, that the Committee think it not necessary to single out any of them for either censure or praise. Reading in all cases was good, and in some instances, excellent.

The habit which many of the scholars have of holding the book too low, and bending the head so far forward as to cramp the vocal organs, thereby preventing a clear and distinct utterance, greatly marred the otherwise creditable performance; and seriously endangers the health. Nearly all the defects which were noticed in this truly valuable exercise were chargeable to a bad position of the body. Spelling, in some instances, fell a little below the point desired, yet, on the whole, it might be considered as good. Each Division contains about forty-eight pupils; but so many were absent on account of sickness as to reduce the number present on the day of examination to about forty. The words were selected from the reading lesson by the examiner, and each scholar allowed to spell once. Four words in each Division, on an average, were misspelled.

The Definitions in most cases were not so clear and distinct as could be desired. There seemed to be a want of language to express the precise idea. Your committee regard this as a very important branch of study, and one which should receive greater attention.

GRAMMAR, HISTORY, WRITING, COMPOSITION, AND
BOOK KEEPING.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR. — In the lower Divisions of the Grammar Schools, the examiner proposed various extemporaneous questions, involving some of the more simple and obvious principles of this study, and required answers to the same verbally and from memory. But in the first Divisions, and in the Girls' High School, a different and more reliable method was adopted. A list of eighteen questions embodying many essential and leading principles of English Grammar were given to each school, and the pupils required to answer them in writing. The importance of this branch of study, in the opinion of the Committee, cannot well be over-estimated, and the examination was conducted in a manner correspondingly thorough. The result, as a whole, is creditable to the scholars and their respective teachers, and satisfactory to the examiner.

HISTORY, WRITING, &c. — Goodrich's History of the United States is used as a text book in this branch of study, which is not much taught below the 1st Divisions.

The scholars were questioned concerning the discoverers of our country, the early history of the Colonies, the War of the Revolution, the first settlers of the different States — their characteristics and the principal events in their early history; and they answered correctly and promptly. — Some of the scholars delineated upon the black board the battle of New Orleans, and the capture of the city of Washington in the last war, in a manner which showed an intimate knowledge of the history of those events. — There are, perhaps, few accomplishments of greater practical utility than a plain, easy and uniform hand writing. This, under a judicious system of instruction, almost all, perhaps, may acquire, though all may not become *elegant* writers in the highest sense of the word.

Very gratifying proficiency in this important branch has been made during the year past. In Composition considerable progress has been made in the higher Divisions. It is the practice of the teachers to furnish the pupils subjects on which to write, and to combine *good writing* with good composition in estimating its merits. Some very scholarly productions, and beautifully written, were shown the Committee, in the 1st and 2d Divisions.—Book Keeping is taught to a limited extent, showing the pupil how to keep in convenient and simple form ordinary accounts, to make out bills, drafts, &c., so as to qualify him, should he pursue the study no further, to keep accurate accounts of the ordinary business transactions of life.

ARITHMETIC AND GEOGRAPHY.

ARITHMETIC. — The examiner intended to devote sufficient time to this department to enable him to judge of the condition and comparative advancement of the classes. He remarks that, after having gone through with the examination, the conviction was left that the Schools had answered a reasonable expectation. The methods of different teachers are so various that the same method of examination with about the same list of questions will show seeming inequalities which do not in reality exist, and commendation or blame is very likely to be misplaced.

The advancement in the text-book of the classes of the same grade in the different schools is about equal. "The exceeding value of intellectual and analytical Arithmetic is apparent; and continued and large attention to these is to be commended."

"The practical shorter methods of analysis, which may be carried into all the different rules, should be instilled for the purpose of practical life as well as for the intellectual training and the ultimate principles and philosophy of figures."

GEOGRAPHY. — Several days were spent in the examination in this study. The large amount of *absences* for several months past, occasioned by sickness among the pupils, had an important effect in the results of this, as well as of the other examinations. "It is not our design," says the examiner, "to speak fully, at this time, of the results of our examination in each class separately, and in detail, as such a course would extend this Report to an unreasonable length. As a *whole* the classes sustained the examination as well as, under the circumstances, could have been expected. The average of correct answers in all the divisions examined, was about seventy-five per cent., which is a very fair average indeed, and shows conclusively that the teachers have labored hard, and successfully, and are worthy of our confidence.

Various methods of teaching Geography are employed by the Teachers,—and although much knowledge in this important study had been acquired by the pupils, we fear that sufficient prominence has not been given to the Geography of our own Country,—its Soil, Productions,—Climate, — Commerce, — Government, — Religion, &c. Several excellent specimens of Map Drawing, executed by the pupils in the Washington and Dearborn Schools, were examined, and the Committee recommend a continuance of the practice, and also that it be introduced into the Dudley and Comins Schools.

MUSIC AND DRAWING.

"In these ornamental branches of education, the examination was strictly elementary and conducted upon the inductive principle. It was somewhat protracted and thorough. In the former branch, it embraced the whole of the first and second departments of music, called Rythm and Melody. In the latter, it was confined to the principles of Linear and Perspective Drawing. And suffice

it to say, that the pupils examined gave convincing evidence of having put forth untiring efforts to acquire a practical knowledge of these accomplishments. It is due to the pupils to say that, with few exceptions, they bore the examination in a manner highly creditable to themselves and their accomplished and worthy teachers, and which fully satisfied the Committee that the small outlay required to continue instruction in these ornamental branches, is a judicious and commendable expenditure."

EDWIN RAY.

STATEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

[Prepared by Dr. T. R. Nute, Examiner.]

QUESTIONS.

1. Define English Grammar, and state the several parts to which its principles relate.
2. State the several departments of English Grammar, and define each.
3. State the several classes of words or parts of speech, and define each.
4. Mention the several classes or kinds of the noun, define each class, state its several properties, and define each.
5. Mention the several classes of the adjective, define each class, state its several degrees of comparison, define each, and state in how many and by what ways it is compared.
6. Mention the several classes of the adverb, define each class, state its several degrees of comparison, define each, and state in how many and by what ways it is compared.
7. Mention the several classes of the pronoun, define each, state its properties, define each, mention the several leading personal pronouns, and decline the second person in both numbers.
8. Mention the several kinds or varieties of the verb, define each, state its several properties, define each, and mention its several voices, and define each.
9. Define the term mood, mention the several used in English Grammar, define each, and state the auxiliaries used in each mood.
10. Define the term tense, mention the several used in English Grammar, define each, state which are used in each mood, and give the sign of each in each of the different moods.
11. Write a synopsis, with the pronoun I, of the verb touch, through each of the several moods, through each of the several voices, in each of the several tenses, and mention the several participles derived from the same verb.
12. Inflect the verb touch in the indicative mood, past tense, passive voice; in the potential mood, active voice, past perfect tense; in the subjunctive mood, passive voice, future perfect tense; in the infinitive mood, active voice, perfect tense; and in the imperative mood, passive voice, present tense.
13. Write the plural number of each of the following words, viz: loaf, grief, journey, fancy, this, that, and state the rule for its formation, in each instance.

14. Write two sentences, one containing a noun in the possessive case, singular number, and the other, containing a noun in the possessive case, plural number, and state the rule for its formation, in each number.

15. Compare the following words, viz. : few, many, near, far, wisely, ignorant, well, soon, beautiful, and state the rule applicable to the comparison of each word.

16. Decline the principal relative pronouns in both numbers.

17. Correct the errors in the following sentences, viz : Both cold and heat have its extremes. Books not pleasure occupies his mind. Patience and diligence, like faith, removes mountains. He not they are mistaken. Several persons were entered into the conspiracy.

18. Parse, in accordance with the several models laid down in the Grammar used, each word in the following sentence, viz : The lips of Isaiah, the prophet, were touched with fire.

The above questions, in the aggregate, resolve themselves into 140 particulars, which were answered as follows, viz :—

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

First Division — *Senior Class.*

The average No. of correct answers was 135, or 97 per cent.

Middle Class.

The average No. of correct answers was 133, or 95 per cent.

Junior Class.

The average No. of correct answers was 131, or 93 per cent.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL.

First Division — *First Class.*

The average No. of correct answers was 127, or 90 per cent.

Second Class.

The average No. of correct answers was 115, or 82 per cent.

COMINS SCHOOL.

First Division — *First Class.*

The average No. of correct answers was 125, or 89 per cent.

Second Class.

The average No. of correct answers was 108, or 77 per cent.

DEARBORN SCHOOL.

First Division — *First Class.*

The average No. of correct answers was 121, or 87 per cent.

Second Class.

The average No. of correct answers was 112, or 80 per cent.

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FRANCIS STREET SCHOOL.

The average number of correct answers was 113, or 81 per cent.

DUDLEY SCHOOL.

First Division — *First Class.*

The average No. of correct answers was 98, or 70 per cent.

Second Class.

The average No. of correct answers was 95, or 68 per cent.

TABULAR ABSTRACT. — BY CLASSES.

No. Pupils exam. in a Division.	NAME OF SCHOOL.	Correct Answers.	Incorrect Answers.	Per cent. of Cor. Ans.	Per cent. of Incor. Ans.	Average Age.
8	Girls' High School—Senior Class..	135	5	97	3	17½
16	Middle “ ..	133	7	95	5	16½
25	Junior “ ..	131	9	93	7	15½
25	Washington School—First Class...	127	13	90	10	13½
23	Second “ ...	115	25	82	18	13½
9	Comins School—First Class.....	125	15	89	11	14½
16	Second “	108	32	77	23	13½
20	Dearborn School—First Class.....	121	19	87	13	14½
19	Second “	112	28	80	20	14½
9	Francis St. School.....	113	27	81	19	13½
20	Dudley School—First Class.....	98	42	70	30	15
25	Second “	95	45	68	32	14½

TABULAR ABSTRACT. — BY SCHOOLS.

No. Pupils in each School	NAME OF SCHOOL.	Correct Answers.	Incorrect Answers.	Per cent. of Correct.	Per cent. of Incorrect.	Average Age.
49	Girls' High School, . .	133	7	95	5	16½
51	Washington “ . .	121	19	86	14	13½
25	Comins “ . .	117	23	83	17	14
39	Dearborn “ . .	116	24	82	18	14½
9	Francis Street “ . .	113	27	81	19	13½
49	Dudley “ . .	97	43	69	31	14½

TABULAR ABSTRACT. — IN THE AGGREGATE.

Total No. of Pupils Examined.	ALL THE SCHOOLS COMBINED.	Correct Answers.	Incorrect Answers.	Per cent. of Correct.	Per cent. of Incorrect.	Average Age.
222	Summary of all,	116	24	83	17	14½

REPORT ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Examined May, 1858.

Besides the writer hereof, the Committee to whom was assigned the annual examination, so called, of the Thirty-three* Primary and Intermediate Schools of the City of Roxbury, were Rev. Dr. Putnam, Ira Allen, M. D., Joshua Seaver, and R. P. Anderson, Esqs. The absence of Dr. Putnam, for a number of weeks, at the period of the Examination, gave him valid claim to be excused from service, which was promptly discharged by the acting Chairman of the School Committee, Dr. H. G. Morse. The Committee on the Primary Schools performed their labor mostly during the month of May, preceding immediately the close of the Spring Term. They found many of the schools greatly thinned in number, and put back in attainments, by the prevalence of an epidemic, (Measles,) which had raged for weeks previously. From this cause, some of the schools had been more than decimated, reaching in a few cases to a reduction to half their usual attendance. It must be plain, that the operation of such an agency, just at the time of its existence, must have been a serious hindrance to the favorable appearance of not a few of the schools.

The schools examined by Dr. Allen were numbers 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 22, being those in Vernon Street, Avon Place, and Francis Street. Teachers: Misses Fay, Durant, Backup, Adams, Russell, Rice, and Waldock. "Satisfactory," and "very satisfactory," are the terms used by the

* By the completion of the new Primary School House on Heath Place, the number of the Primary and Intermediate Schools is now Thirty-four.

examiner, in describing the state of these schools. The largest number of pupils present (in No. 19, in Orange Street,) was 75, the average belonging to the School being 87; the smallest attendance is in connection with the School in Francis Street, 21. The largest per centage of attendance is in the most numerous school, — Orange Street, — $91\frac{1}{4}$, though Number 9, in Vernon Street, nearly equals it, being plus 91; the lowest per cent. of attendance is 79. These schools are generally large, exceeding forty, and, in some cases, fifty scholars. Dr. Allen thinks the number connected with Number 19, of the Orange Street School, "altogether too many for one teacher," and hopes "the new School House will soon be completed, and better accommodations provided." Still he found "the order good, and the school in a healthy condition," which, in such circumstances of disadvantage, reflects, he well concludes, much credit on the teacher. The school room of Number 10, in Vernon Street, wants facilities for better ventilation. The First Class in Number 9, of the same school, are using the text books used in the Grammar School, by permission of the Local Committee. This class consists of twenty-five, out of nearly sixty, in the school. They might enter the Grammar Schools, were room offered for that purpose. The over crowded condition of several of the schools, is due to the same cause.

Dr. Morse examined the four Schools in Yeoman Street, under the instruction of Misses Jennison, Brown, Babcock and Hosmer, which schools have an aggregate of 238 pupils, or an average of $59\frac{1}{2}$. "The examination was every way satisfactory," "the teachers are faithful and efficient." The classification of the schools, by which the scholars pass from one to the other, through a graded scale, is thought to promote progress, and was "so apparent" to the examiner, that he recommends it for "adoption in all cases where it is practicable." Seventy-five pu-

pils were admitted to the two lower schools, during the quarter, and sixteen in the first were prepared for the Grammar Schools at the time of the last promotion. The per centage of attendance in two of these schools reaches 92, in the others 89 and 90.

Mr. Seaver examined the two schools on Smith Street — teachers, Misses Waldock and Eaton, — the four schools in Sudbury Street, taught by Misses Dickerman, Stone, Bills and Williams, also the school at the Mill Dam, Miss Holbrook's. Some of these schools, as that last named, depending on a floating population, and having pupils ranging from 5 to 13 years of age, and the over crowded one in Smith Street, labor under disadvantages which, however, have been coped with in a successful manner. Mr. Seaver speaks in one case of a little lack of energy in one of the teachers, but applies the terms "well," and "excellent," to the schools generally, which he examined. The per centage of attendance in the Smith Street Schools, is 92 and 87; in the Sudbury Street, somewhat less. Speaking of the matter of order, he says: "Of all the schools examined, a large majority of the scholars are children of foreigners, but the best order was manifested by those who had the best teacher to govern, so that I do not wish to hear that if a school is not well governed, or well taught, it is because the pupils are foreign, for I believe the fault is in the teacher."

The largest number of Schools examined by any one member of the Committee, was by Mr. Anderson, ten in all, being the two Schools in Centre Street, taught by Misses Wood and Morse, the two in Edinboro' Street, Misses Savage and Hewes, the two in Eustis Street, taught by Misses Wales and Davis, the two in Sumner Street, Misses Young and Neal, also the Monroe and Washington Street Schools, under the instruction of Misses Chenery and Duncklee. He speaks of these schools, for the most part, in terms of commendation, as exhibiting "cleanli-

ness," "good order," "contentment," and a "discipline," including affection, as a prominent element. In all he found, in addition to the branches usually taught, phonetics attended to. The manner of ingress and egress of the school rooms on Centre Street, were found objectionable, and the situation of the School on Washington Street is noisy and bad, accounting, in a measure, for the lack of order in the school,—if not for the want of proper ventilation. The per centage of attendance in No. 23, Centre Street, is 93. The largest is that of School No. 5, Eustis Street, 95; No. 6, in the same building, reaches 92.

The examination of the Intermediate School on Vernon Street, taught by Miss Delia Mansfield and Miss N. L. Tucker, was conducted in the Spring and Fall Terms, by Messrs. Seaver and Anderson, both of whom speak of the the School in warm commendation. The *programme* of studies, as submitted by the teachers, shows a defined aim, which includes, very manifestly, the idea of efficiency and progress.

The Schools not already enumerated, were examined, so far as he was able to attend to that service, by Mr. Olmstead. These were the Schools in Heath Street, taught by Miss Heath, Winthrop Street, by Miss Brooks, and the two Schools in Elm Street, under the tuition of Misses Dudley and Scammell. The per centage of attendance, owing to the cause named at the beginning of the Report, has not been up to the usual average, ranging from some seventy to eighty, and more. The schools, especially those in the Fifth Ward, were found in a good condition, in respect both of discipline and teaching. The Heath Street School labors under the disadvantage of being the only one, in a large territory, where there is a demand for Grammar School instruction, besides being, as compared with nearly all the others, newly organized. The keeping of such a school requires qualifications, not alone

of experience, and knowledge, and character, but of ADAPTATION. Your Committee are impressed with the need of the presence of this element in the guidance, especially, of our Primary Schools. The pupil is taken here at an age of great susceptibility to the moulding influence of sympathy, and of the hand that almost instinctively touches the delicate springs of opening being and character. One cannot pass through these schools without marking how important is the possession of this power. He will be led to question, we think, whether beyond a certain age in the teachers, especially of such schools, that power, with rare exceptions, does not begin to decay.

Since the foregoing was written, the Fall examination of the Primary and Intermediate Schools of the City, has been assigned to the same Committee, who have, without exception, performed the duty faithfully. The attendance, generally, was found better than at the annual examination, but complaint in most cases was made of the loss of the most advanced pupils, by promotion to the Grammar Schools. The Committee bear uniform testimony on points of order, and of general features, in the schools. They are reported, with almost no exception, in a healthy and good condition. In the matter of phonetic, and other vocal drill — in some cases singing included — the Committee found a difference. In a few schools singing seems at such a discount, as to have nearly or quite ceased, as an exercise; in others there was no method of physical excitation, and discipline, by means of varied positions; in yet others, the drill by analysis, if ever adopted, had gone into disuse. Decline in all these respects is lamented, on grounds as well of wholesome diversion to very young minds, as of other utility. It must be clear that the children in our Primary Schools need, quite as much as good instruction, a certain *tact* in the use of proper expedients for the right play and employment of the juvenile restlessness, and the enthusiastic sport which, at so early an age,

assert themselves. The mind is then commonly less active than the body, and the mental far less than the flow of animal spirits. FORMATION is what is now wanted, and in its development the teacher should know well how to touch the right "strings," and make thus good music on those immortal instruments, with which, for a brief season, she is largely entrusted.

To do this WELL, is quite as needful and important, as the most successful rudimentary teaching. Your Committee believe this qualification — including, always, the right moral influence — can never be kept too distinctly before the minds of our Primary School Teachers — teachers whose vocation, as one of normal influence and power, yields to no other.

J. W. OLMSTEAD.

SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOLS.

Schools.	Teachers.	Average members belonging.	Average of attend- ance.	Per cent. of att.	Av. age.	Location.	Salaries.	Local Committees.
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	Robert Bickford, <i>Principal</i>	35	32	.91	16	Kenilworth St.	\$1600 500	Shailer, Olmstead, & Brewer
	Elizabeth C. Babcock, <i>Assistant</i> . . .	34	32	.94	14			
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS. DUDLEY SCHOOL, (For Girls.)	Adeline Seaver, <i>Principal</i>	49	46	.94	14	Bartlett Street.	700 350	Brewer, Cummings, & Seaver.
	Isabella H. Wilson, <i>Assistant</i>	51	43	.84	13			
	2d Division, Sarah J. Leavitt. . . .	54	50	.93	12	Kenilworth St. Winthrop St. Kenilworth St.	325	
	3d " Ellen A. Marean. . . .	53	48	.91	11		325	
	4th " Clara B. Tucker. . . .	51	48	.94	10		325	
	5th " Caroline J. Nash. . . .	50	45	.90	9		325	
	6th " Clementine B. Thompson . . .	51	45	.88	10		325	
	7th " Helen J. Otis. . . .	359	325	.91	—		—	
WASHINGTON SCHOOL, (For Boys.)	John Kneeland, <i>Principal</i>	60	58	.97	13	Washington St.	1400 350 800 350 325 325 325 325	Ray, Seaver, & Allen.
	Harriet E. Burrell, <i>Assistant</i>	54	50	.93	13			
	2d Division, John F. Patten, <i>Sub Mast.</i>	50	48	.96	12 $\frac{3}{4}$			
	3d " Anna M. Williams. . . .	45	42	.93	12			
	4th " Alice C. Pierce. . . .	55	52	.95	11 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	5th " Sarah M. Vose. . . .	58	54	.93	10 $\frac{3}{4}$			
	6th " Caroline C. Drown. . . .	58	56	.97	10 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	7th " Rebecca A. Jordan. . . .	58	56	.97	10 $\frac{1}{2}$			

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8th	"	Esther M. Nickerson. .	58	55	.95	10	Orange Street.	325	
	9th	Juliette Dickerman. .	40	37	.93	10		325	
			478	452	—	.94			
DEARBORN SCHOOL, (For Boys.)									
		William H. Long, <i>Principal</i> . . .	41	40	.98	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dearborn Place.	1400	Morse, Williams, & Anderson.
		Ruth P. Stockbridge, <i>Assistant</i> . .						350	
		2d Division, Louisa E. Harris. . .	40	38	.95	12 $\frac{1}{2}$		350	
		3d " Plooma A. Savage. . .	43	40	.93	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		325	
		4th " Henrietta M. Young. . .	46	44	.96	10 $\frac{1}{2}$		325	
		5th " J. Ellen Horton. . .	46	43	.93	9 $\frac{1}{2}$		325	
		6th " Louisa J. Fisher. . .	49	46	.94	9 $\frac{1}{2}$		325	
			265	251	—	.95			
COMINS SCHOOL, (For Girls)									
		Sarah A. M. Cushing, <i>Principal</i> . .	29	27	.93	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gore Avenue.	700	Nute, Olmstead, & Putnam.
		2d Division, Mary C. Eaton. . .	40	38	.95	12		350	
		3d " Elizabeth W. Young. . .	43	41	.95	11		325	
		4th " Almira W. Chamberline	50	48	.96	10		325	
		5th " Elizabeth A. Morse. . .	58	55	.95	10		325	
			220	209	—	.95			
FRANCIS ST. SCHOOL, (For both Sexes.)									
		Sophronia F. Wright, <i>Principal</i> . .	34	31	.91	12	Francis Street.	400	Allen, Cummings, & Anderson.
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, (For Boys.)									
		Delia Mansfield, <i>Principal</i> . . .	44	41	.93	12	Vernon Street.	400	Seaver.
		2d Division, Nancy L. Tucker. . .	48	44	.92	10		325	
			92	85	—				

SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOLS.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

[Each School for both Sexes. — Salary of each Teacher \$300.]

Teachers.		Average members belonging.	Average of attend- ance.	Per cent. of att.	Average age.	Location.	Local Committees.
No. 1.	Sarah T. Jennison.	48	44	.92	9	Yeoman Street.	Morse.
2.	Eliza Brown.	59	56	.95	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	" "	"
3.	Sarah O. Babcock.	60	58	.97	6	" "	"
4.	Sarah H. Hosmer.	58	50	.86	6	" "	"
5.	Margaret E. Davis.	38	34	.89	9	Eustis Street.	Williams.
6.	Maria L. Young.	49	43	.88	7	Summer Street.	"
7.	Mary F. Neal.	62	56	.90	6	" "	"
8.	Emma C. Wales.	54	51	.94	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Eustis Street.	"
9.	Harriet H. Fay.	60	46	.77	8	Vernon Street.	Shailer.
10.	Susannah L. Durant.	70	66	.94	6	" "	"
11.	Sophia L. Stone.	50	44	.88	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sudbury Street.	Allen.
12.	Charlotte Williams.	58	56	.97	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	" "	"
13.	Cornelia J. Bills.	80	67	.84	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "	"
14.	Sarah E. Field.	84	68	.81	6	" "	"
15.	Ann M. Backup.	47	42	.89	8	Avon Place.	Cummings.
16.	Clara M. Adams.	70	60	.86	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	" "	"
17.	Sarah W. Holbrook.	48	42	.88	10	Mill Dam.	Allen.
18.	Almira B. Russell.	60	50	.83	8	Heath Place.	Seaver.

19. Caroline Y. Rice.	108	88	.81	6½	"	"	"	"
20. Mary A. Waldoek.	60	55	.92	8	Smith Street.	"	"	Nute.
21. Anna M. Eaton.	70	58	.83	6	"	"	"	"
22. Elizabeth Waldoek.	31	22	.71	7	Francis Street.	"	"	Anderson.
23. Henrietta M. Wood.	55	46	.84	8	Centre Street.	"	"	Brewer.
24. Mary A. Morse.	51	44	.86	7	"	"	"	"
25. Caroline N. Heath.	44	40	.91	9	Heath Street.	"	"	Putnam.
26. Mary G. Hewes.	34	29	.85	7½	Edinboro' Street.	"	"	Olmstead.
27. Maria L. J. Perry.	49	44	.90	6	"	"	"	"
28. Margaret G. Chenery.	40	36	.90	8	Munroe Street.	"	"	Ray.
29. Sarah A. Dudley.	48	46	.96	8	Elm Street.	"	"	Anderson.
30. H. B. Scammell.	55	48	.87	6	"	"	"	"
31. Sarah C. Dunclee.	80	68	.85	6	Heath Place.	"	"	Cummings.
32. Frances N. Brooks.	64	50	.78	7	Winthrop Street.	"	"	Anderson.
33. Asenath Nichols.	82	70	.85	6	Heath Place.	"	"	Seaver.

CHARLES BUTLER, Teacher of Music in the Grammar Schools, Salary \$200 per annum.

WM. N. BARTHOLEMEW, Teacher of Drawing in the High School, Salary \$200 per annum.

JONAS PIERCE, JR., Curator of School Buildings, Salary \$700 per annum.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE, FOR 1859.



ELECTED AT LARGE.

GEORGE PUTNAM, ARIAL I. CUMMINGS, WILLIAM A. CRAFTS.

ELECTED BY WARDS.

Ward 1. — Horatio G. Morse, Franklin Williams.

“ 2. — Joshua Seaver, Ira Allen.

“ 3. — Timothy R. Nute, Richard Garvey.

“ 4. — Joseph N. Brewer, John W. Olmstead.

“ 5. — Edwin Ray, Robert P. Anderson.



